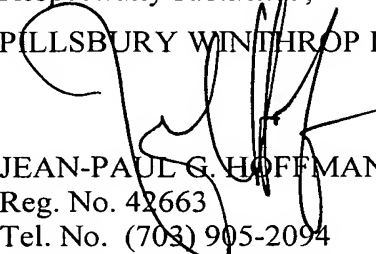


REMARKS

Claims 1-31 are pending. By this Amendment claims 23-31 are added. Prompt and favorable examination on the merits are respectfully requested.

Respectfully submitted,
PILLSBURY WINTHROP LLP



JEAN-PAUL G. HOFFMAN
Reg. No. 42663
Tel. No. (703) 905-2094
Fax No. (703) 905-2500

Date: January 25, 2005
P.O. Box 10500
McLean, VA 22102
(703) 905-2000